AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A composition for improving the bioavailability of a drug comprising at least one poorly bioavailable drug dissolved in an effective amount of menthol, wherein

the drug is atorvastatin, cerivastatin, fluvastatin, lovastatin, mevastatin, pravastatin, simvastatin, fenofibrate, itraconazole, bromocriptine, carbamazepine, ~~diazepam,~~ etoposide, camptothecin, ~~danazole, progesterone,~~ nitrofurantoin, ~~estradiol, estrone,~~ oxfendazole, ~~proquazone,~~ nifedipine, verapamil, or glyburide;

the effective amount of menthol is about 20% to about 99% by weight of the composition; and

the composition is suitable for oral administration.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the drug is atorvastatin, cerivastatin, fluvastatin, lovastatin, mevastatin, pravastatin, or simvastatin.

6. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the drug is simvastatin.

7. (Withdrawn) A method for improving the bioavailability of a drug comprising dissolving the drug in an effective amount of menthol.

8. (Withdrawn) A method for improving the bioavailability of a drug comprising dissolving at least one poorly bioavailable drug in an effective amount of menthol, wherein the effective amount of menthol is about 20% to about 99% by weight of the solution.

9. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8, wherein the poorly bioavailable drug is a drug with low aqueous solubility, a drug capable of being metabolized by cytochrome

P450, a drug capable of being expelled from cells by the P-glycoprotein pump, or a drug capable of being metabolized via glucuronidation.

10. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8, further comprising administering the composition to a mammal.

11. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8, wherein the amount of menthol is sufficient to increase the oral bioavailability of the drug by an amount represented by an about 10% or more increase in the average area under the blood or plasma concentration versus time curve (AUC) when compared to a non-menthol containing formulation AUC.

12. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 9, wherein the amount of menthol is about 60% to 99% by weight.

13. (Withdrawn) A method for reducing the variability of the bioavailability of a drug comprising dissolving at least one poorly bioavailable drug in an effective amount of menthol, wherein the effective amount of menthol is sufficient to decrease the variability in the drug's bioavailability by about 10% or more of the relative standard deviation (CV%) of the area under the blood or plasma concentration versus time curve (AUC) when compared to a non-menthol containing formulation AUC.

14. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 13, wherein the poorly bioavailable drug is a drug with low aqueous solubility, a drug capable of being metabolized by cytochrome P450, a drug capable of being expelled from cells by the P-glycoprotein pump, or a drug capable of being metabolized via glucuronidation.

15. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 13, further comprising administering the composition to a mammal.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 13, wherein the amount of menthol is sufficient to decrease the variability in the drug's bioavailability by about 50% or more of the relative standard deviation (CV%) of the area under the blood or plasma concentration versus time curve (AUC) when compared to a non-menthol containing formulation AUC.

17. (Withdrawn) A method for increasing the extent of time that a drug provides a therapeutically significant concentration in blood or plasma comprising dissolving at least one poorly bioavailable drug in an effective amount of menthol, wherein the effective amount of menthol is sufficient to extend the time that the drug provides a therapeutically significant concentration in blood or plasma by one hour or more.

18. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 17, wherein the poorly bioavailable drug is a drug with low aqueous solubility, a drug capable of being metabolized by cytochrome P450, a drug capable of being expelled from cells by the P-glycoprotein pump, or a drug capable of being metabolized via glucuronidation.

19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 17 wherein the amount of menthol is sufficient to extend the time that the drug provides a therapeutically significant concentration in blood or plasma by one hour or more.

20. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the average area under the blood or plasma concentration versus time curve ~~(AUC)~~ of said composition is at least 5% more than the average ~~AUC~~ area under the blood or plasma concentration versus time curve of a non-menthol containing formulation of the same drug.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein the improvement in bioavailability is determined as at least a 5% increase in the ratio of AUC_t/AUC_r above 100%.

22. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 20, wherein the average ~~AUC~~ area under the blood or plasma concentration versus time curve of said composition is at least 10% more than the average ~~AUC~~ area under the blood or plasma concentration versus time curve of a non-menthol containing formulation.

23. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 22, wherein the average ~~AUC~~ area under the blood or plasma concentration versus time curve of said composition is at least 15% more than the average ~~AUC~~ area under the blood or plasma concentration versus time curve of a non-menthol containing formulation.

24. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the effective amount of menthol is about 60% to about 95% by weight of the composition.

25. (New) A composition for improving the bioavailability of a drug comprising at least one poorly bioavailable drug dissolved in an effective amount of menthol, wherein

the drug is diazepam, danazole, progesterone, estradiol, estrone, proquazone, and ketoprofen;

the effective amount of menthol is 20% to 99% by weight of the composition; and

the composition is suitable for oral administration.

26. (New) The composition of claim 25, wherein the average area under the blood or plasma concentration versus time curve of said composition is at least 5% more than the average area under the blood or plasma concentration versus time curve of a non-menthol containing formulation of the same drug.

27. (New) The composition of claim 26, wherein the average area under the blood or plasma concentration versus time curve of said composition is at least 10% more than the average area under the blood or plasma concentration versus time curve of a non-menthol containing formulation.

28. (New) The composition of claim 27, wherein the average area under the blood or plasma concentration versus time curve of said composition is at least 15% more than the average area under the blood or plasma concentration versus time curve of a non-menthol containing formulation.

29. (New) The composition of claim 25, wherein the effective amount of menthol is 60% to 95% by weight of the composition.